

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 7056

BILL NUMBER: HB 1223

NOTE PREPARED: Jan 5, 2010

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: County Government Reorganization.

FIRST AUTHOR: Rep. GiaQuinta

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

FUNDS AFFECTED: X **GENERAL**
DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: The bill provides that in a county in which a second class city with a population of at least 200,000 is located:

- (1) The board of county commissioners is eliminated effective January 1, 2015;
- (2) A single county commissioner shall be elected in 2014 and every four years thereafter;
- and
- (3) After December 31, 2014, the county council is the county legislative body as well as the county fiscal body.

It specifies that the term of each county commissioner elected in 2012 is two years rather than four years.

Effective Date: Upon passage; July 1, 2010.

Explanation of State Expenditures:

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: *Reorganization of County Executive and Legislative Structure:* The effect of the bill will depend on the decisions of the county council. No current county executive or legislative responsibility is reduced or eliminated. The duties are reassigned from a three-member board of county commissioners to a single, elected county commissioner, which could reduce compensation costs. However, executive compensation is determined by the county fiscal body, and any cost savings will result from the decisions of the fiscal body. Officers are compensated from the county general fund. The bill only has effect in Allen County.

Background and Additional Details - In Allen County, the board of county commissioners is the executive body of the county. All executive and administrative powers or duties of the county, except those expressly assigned by law to other elected or appointed officials, are assigned to the board of county commissioners. Also, the board of county commissioners has many assigned and authorized responsibilities. Examples include:

- (1) Establishing procedures for all county departments, offices, and agencies under its jurisdiction.
- (2) Administering all statutes applicable to the county and its ordinances and regulations.
- (3) Supervising the care and custody of all county property, the collection of revenues, and the control of disbursements and expenditures, and reporting on the same.
- (4) Determining the nature and extent of all county improvements.
- (5) Negotiating contracts for the county.

Under the bill, the single county commissioner would assume all the responsibilities of the board of county commissioners. The county commissioner also would have specific reporting duties to both the residents of the county and the legislative body, would make recommendations concerning county improvements and actions, and would have approval/veto powers on ordinances passed by the county legislative body.

The county council is the fiscal body of the county. In Allen County, the county council is a seven-member body. Under the bill, the county council would assume all legislative duties of the board of county commissioners.

The salary of county commissioners in Allen County is \$65,300 and for the county council is \$15,475.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected:

Local Agencies Affected: Allen County.

Information Sources: *2009 County Factbook*, Association of Indiana Counties.

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